



# PRESS NOTICE

## BILL NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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**January 25, 2012**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Seizure in Counterfeit Goods Investigation**

**Columbia, SC** ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that federal and state law enforcement officers served multiple search warrants and arrest warrants at business locations in Columbus, Ohio, and Spartanburg, South Carolina. Today's operation was the result of a 15-month undercover investigation conducted by the FBI into the sale of counterfeit goods here in South Carolina.

In a terrific show of federal/state cooperation across state lines, agencies participating in the search warrants included the FBI, South Carolina, FBI, Columbus, Ohio, the Spartanburg County Public Safety Department, the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, the Columbus, Ohio Police Department, and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Columbus, Ohio.

The search warrants were directed at the possession and distribution of counterfeit goods at each location and Electronic Benefit Transfer information (EBT

cards) at the Spartanburg stores. Agents seized four tractor trailer loads of counterfeit athletic shoes, jeans, watches, and other items of apparel. As a result of the searches, agents also arrested the following individuals:

- Issa M. Saba, age 55, of Spartanburg, South Carolina
- Hany Samir Nagib, age 47, of Spartanburg, South Carolina
- Samer Hayel Issa Alamat, age 32, of Spartanburg, South Carolina
- Azmi Azzam Al-Hamouri, age 40, of Columbus, Ohio
- Ahmad T. Al-Mahmoud, age 29, of Columbus, Ohio

The United States Attorneys Office, Greenville, South Carolina will prosecute these cases. The United States Attorney advised that all persons arrested are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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